

INTERTERM 2011 COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

Educational Programs and Curriculum Committee

Interterm 2011: JANUARY 4-22

Instructor: Donald Hatcher

Course Title: Fundamentals of Fly Fishing

Enrollment Limit Request: 20

Classroom Location Request: MA 102

Attach a course syllabus that includes:

1. A general course description, including required texts
2. specific course objectives (in measurable terms) and student activities that will be used to assess the objectives (descriptions of assignments).
3. A statement addressing the unique nature of the course as an interterm opportunity (may be separate from student syllabus)
 - statement should reflect the catalog description of interterm as a “focused, innovative educational opportunity”
 - statement should indicate why the course would not be suitable during the regular semester
4. A description of the activities of the course with sufficient detail to show “full time” engagement of students. Full-time engagement includes a minimum of 39 contact hours and approximately 120 hours of student activity associated with the course.

Class Meeting Times:

****Please note:** All Interterm courses must meet on the first and last day of classes as well as regularly throughout the Interterm period. The minimum number of meeting hours for a 3 credit hour Interterm course is 39 hours.

	date	hours	date	hours	date	hours
Monday	1/4	1-4	1/11	1-4	1/18	
Tuesday	1/5	1-4	1/12	1-4	1/19	1-4
Wednesday	1/6	1-4	1/13	1-4	1/20	1-4
Thursday	1/6	1-4	1/14	1-4	1/21	1-4
Friday	1/8	1-4	1/15	1-4	1/22	1-4

Grading: The standard for Interterm courses is to offer a Pass/No Credit grade.

Prerequisites: The standard for Interterm courses is to have no prerequisites. Please provide a rationale if this course is an exception to that rule.

Travel Requirements: Provide a general itinerary, an outline of activities, and an estimate of student costs. (Note: Travel time may not be included in the minimum of 39 meeting hours for interterm courses)

Fees/Costs: Provide information about total costs as well as required non-refundable student deposits

Fundamentals for Fly Fishing

January 2011

Instructor: Donald Hatcher

Description: This interterm course introduces students to the essential skills needed for successful fly casting and fly tying. Through instructional videos, hands-on instruction, and lots of practice, students will learn the fundamentals of the back and roll casts, how to tie essential fishing knots, and how to tie at least fourteen wet and dry fly patterns. All necessary equipment (rods, reels, lines, etc.) and fly tying materials will be provided.

Course Objectives:

- To learn the basics of successful fly casting: both back and roll casting, line stripping, false-casting, shooting line, and single and double-hauls.
- To learn to tie basic fly patterns including caddis pupae, bead-headed marabous, woolly worms, woolly buggers, crackle-back woolies, mohair leeches, Adams, Light Cahills, elk hair caddis, scuds, bead-headed prince, hare's ear nymphs, pheasant tail nymphs, brassies, and blood worms.
- To learn the basic fishing knots necessary for successful fly fishing: improved cinch, surgeon's, and uni knots.

Assignments: Students will meet from 1:00 to 4:00p daily to view instructional videos on fly casting and fly tying, demonstrations by the instructor, and then practice the casting and tying techniques. Each evening students will tie 6 of each pattern covered that day for presentation and critique the following day.

Grades: P/NC. To receive credit students must be able to cast a fly 40 feet using both the back cast and roll cast techniques and construct four well-tied flies of any eight of the fourteen fly patterns we learn (32 flies total).

Attendance: Attendance is required. No one with more than three absences will receive credit.

Text: Dave Hughes, *American Fly Tying Manual*, 3rd Edition, Portland, OR: Amato Press, 2000.

Costs: Costs for fly rods, reels, and line, instructional videos, fly tying instruction book, fly tying tool kits, and tying materials are \$200. Students will keep all equipment and divide any surplus tying materials at the end of the course. Fees must be paid by November 10. The cost for students who already own fly rods and reels is \$70.

Limit: 20 students

Schedule of Assignments:

Mon., Jan 4 Introduction to the course. Distribute and assemble equipment. Mark lines. Pray for warmer weather. Introductory video by Joan Wulff. Introduction to fly tying equipment w/ Skip Morris. Instruction on tying Rick's Caddis Pupae.

Tue., Jan 5 Instruction in tying variations of a "caddis pupae (La Fontaine's Olive Caddis Puppa, bead-headed);" Joan Wulff video on the cast and back casting techniques; practice techniques.

- Wed., Jan 6 More instruction in tying variations of caddis pupae; instruction in tying the bead-head marabous; view introductory video (Roberts) and practice back casting techniques.
- Thu., Jan 7 Instruction in tying woolly buggers (various colors) and wooly worms; review video and practice casting techniques, view roll casting videos, practice roll casts in pairs.
- Fri., Jan 8 Instruction in variations of woolly buggers, mohair leeches (white, black, and olive), and the crackle-back woolly; view instructional videos, practice casting techniques (roll and back casts).
- Mon., Jan 11 Instruction in tying the elk hair caddis and emerging sparkle pupae; view instructional video, practice casting techniques (roll and back).
- Tue., Jan 12 Instruction in tying the pheasant tail and hare's ear nymphs (deadly patterns); view video, practice casting techniques.
- Wed., Jan 13 Instruction on tying soft hackle flies (the deadliest of the deadly); view video, practice casting techniques.
- Thu., Jan 14 Instruction in tying the Light Cahill and Light Cahill Emerger; view video on specific problems, practice casting techniques.
- Fri., Jan 15 Review the dry fly patterns; instruction in tying blood worms and brassies; practice casting techniques.
- Mon. Jan 18 **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**
- Tue., Jan 19 Instruction in tying scud and shrimp patterns; review videos, practice casting techniques.
- Wed., Jan 20 Instruction in tying the bead-head prince; practice casting techniques.
- Thu, Jan 21 Final exam (Casting proficiency demonstrated, casting contests, and fly displays), view "A River Runs Through It."

Date: September 2, 2009

To: EPC and Rob Flaherty

From: Donald Hatcher

RE: Justification for Fundamentals of Fly Fishing Interterm

I have taught this fly casting and fly tying interterm yearly from 2001 to 2004, then again in 2009. It was a huge success with students. Unlike most students in a philosophy class, many the interterm students become close friends. I still get emails from some of them asking for advice on fly patterns and techniques, or showing pictures of fish they have caught on their fly rods and with their flies. So what is so great about taking a course in fly casting and fly tying?

- Fly casting is an art. It is not something that one can easily teach oneself. A three-week intensive course is ideal. There are numerous fly-casting “schools” –Wulff, Orvis, Lefty Kreh, Jim Rogers, and Charlie Reading--where one can pay for expensive lessons for a few hours or a day, but nothing beats sound instruction combined with daily practice for three weeks.
- Fly casting is also an established competitive sport. There are distance-casting competitions if one wants to compete. So, it is something that one can always get better at doing through a life-time of practice.
- Fly casting is a life-long sport. People from 8 to 85 enjoy it. And, like learning to ride a bike, once one learns it, one never forgets the feel of the basic stroke.
- Fly fishing can be done for almost any species of fish from a tiny brook trout in the Rockies, wipers in bigger lakes, to tarpon in the Caribbean.
- Fly fishing has generated scores of magazines and scholarly books on fly patterns, tying equipment, and casting and tying techniques. One could read forever on the subject.
- Fly tying is one of the most creative skills one can learn. Once the fundamentals are learned, there are probably thousands of distinct patterns to try, as well as scores of variations for each.
- Like fly casting, fly tying is a hobby that one can continue for life. I have friends in their late 70s who are still excellent fly tiers.
- Fly tying can save a person a lot of money. A fly that costs \$1.75 in a shop can be tied for \$.15.
- Fly tying is a hobby that one can enjoy almost anywhere. I have tied flies on airplane flights, in airports, in hotel rooms, beside a stream to match a hatch, and in the comfort of my home while watching another sport on the tube or listening to a favorite radio program.
- Unlike team sports, both fly tying and fly fishing are solitary hobbies. One does not need to engage anyone else to enjoy them.

I have been fly fishing for over 50 years. Having taught the course five times and last fall audited casting lessons from Jim Rogers, one of a very few certified fly casting instructors in Missouri, I am well qualified and enthused to teach it again. Let me know if you have questions.